



2013 Wilderness Trip Planner

This guide will help wilderness travelers plan an overnight wilderness trip. It will also help wilderness users understand and support the mission of the National Park Service...

"...to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

-The National Park Service Organic Act

It is with this idea, of preservation for future generations, that we ask you to review and follow the guidelines, restrictions, and regulations in the following pages as you prepare for your wilderness adventure in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

General Park Information

47050 Generals Highway
Three Rivers, CA 93271
559-565-3341
www.nps.gov/seki

Wilderness Information

47050 Generals Highway #60
Three Rivers, CA 93271
559-565-3766
559-565-4239 (fax)
www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness.htm

In Case of Emergency

Dial 911 from any phone inside the parks.
Call the 24-hour park dispatch center
559-565-3195
from any phone outside the parks.

Where to Get Wilderness Permits

Road's End Permit Station
(Kings Canyon)
Kings Canyon Visitor Center
(Kings Canyon)
Lodgepole Visitor Center
(Sequoia)
Ash Mountain Wilderness Office
(Sequoia)
Mineral King Ranger Station
(Sequoia)

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"The mountains are calling and I must go" – John Muir

Wilderness with a Capital "W"

In 1964, with the passage of the Wilderness Act, Congress established the National Wilderness Preservation System to protect some of the nation's most wild, natural and undisturbed landscapes. All units of this system are managed to "secure for the American people. . . and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness. . . unimpaired for future use and enjoyment." As defined by the Act, "wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain." One primary value of wilderness is that it is a place that allows us to be self-reliant in the natural world. It is wholly up to us to enjoy its benefits, and survive its challenges.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon Wilderness Today

In 1984, the California Wilderness Act designated over 85% of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks as the Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness. This gave 723,006 acres the nation's highest legal protection from development or abuse. Congress designated an additional area, the 39,740 acre John Krebs Wilderness, and added 45,186 acres to the Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness with passage of the *Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009*. Today, 808,124 acres or 93.3% of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks is designated wilderness, and another 30,000 acres (3.5%) of lands in the parks are managed as wilderness per National Park Service policy.

Almost completely surrounded by US Forest Service-managed wildernesses, the wilderness units of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks are part of the second largest contiguous wilderness complex in the lower 49 states.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon Wilderness in the Future

Wilderness management is an evolving process. As we work to balance use with preservation, guidelines, restrictions, and regulations will likely continue to change. These parks have begun the process of developing a new Wilderness Stewardship Plan. With public input, such a plan will establish both a philosophy and criteria for making specific decisions about how we all use the wilderness. If you would like to follow or participate in the planning process, information is available at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/sekiwild>.

Wilderness Collaboration

Today there are more than 750 designated wilderness areas in nearly every state and Puerto Rico.

The National Park Service is one of four federal agencies that manage Wilderness; the others being the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

To learn more about Wilderness, visit www.Wilderness.net

2013 Minimum Impact Restrictions

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF WILDERNESS PERMIT

All travelers are responsible for following these restrictions.

GROUP SIZE LIMITS

In general, the maximum group size is 15 people, 20 head of stock.

Other requirements are as follows:

- Redwood Canyon maximum group size is 10 people.
- Off-Trail group-size is 8 individuals (people and stock combined) for the following areas: Lamarck Col; Darwin Canyon and Darwin Bench; Dusy and Palisade Basin; Sixty Lake and Gardiner Basin; Sphinx Creek and Lakes; Mt. Brewer Range; South of Mt. Whitney-Crabtree Lakes; Miter Basin; Mt. Langley; and Army Pass.
- Affiliated groups may not travel or camp within ½ mile of each other if the total group size exceeds those limits described above.

WILDERNESS TRAVEL

Wilderness permits are required for all overnight travel. A signed permit must be in the permittee's possession and must be presented to an authorized person upon request.

Other requirements are as follows:

- Stay on trails to reduce erosion and preserve vegetation. Short-cutting trails is prohibited.
- Do not build rock cairns or other trail markers.
- Pets are not allowed in the wilderness at any time.
- All wheeled vehicles and all motorized equipment are prohibited in wilderness per the Wilderness Act of 1964.
- Possession of weapons and firearms are subject to state regulations. Discharge of any weapon is prohibited.
- Pack out all trash, including used toilet paper.

CAMPSITE SELECTION

- Camping is not permitted within 2 miles of any trailhead.
- No camping within 25ft. of water. From 25 to 100ft. from water, camping is only allowed in previously well-established campsites.
- Camp on durable surfaces (rock, sand, dirt, snow, etc.) or in designated campsites. Do not camp on vegetation or in meadows.
- Do not construct rocks walls, trenches, new fire rings (or add rocks to existing fire rings), bough beds, furniture, etc.

Area Specific Camping Information:

CAMPING AREA	Designated Sites ONLY	Camping Night Limit	Camping Restrictions
Aster Lake			No camping
Bearpaw Meadow	X		
Bullfrog Lake			No camping within ¼ mile of lake
Charlotte Lake		2 nights	
Eagle Lake			No camping between the trail and lake
Emerald Lake	X		
Hamilton Lakes		2 nights	
Heather Lake			No camping
Hockett Meadow		2 nights	No camping between the trail and Whitman Creek
Kearsarge Lakes		2 nights	
Mosquito Lake #1			No camping within ¼ mile of lake
Paradise Valley	X	2 nights	
Pear Lake	X		
Rae Lakes		1 night per lake	
Redwood Canyon		2 nights	
Timberline Lake			No camping

FOOD-STORAGE RESTRICTIONS

It is your responsibility to prevent bears and other wildlife from obtaining your food. All of the following are considered food items: food meant for human, service dog, or stock consumption; food-tainted garbage and recyclables such as empty cans, bottles, or food wrappers; toiletries such as soap, toothpaste, ointments, and lotions; food containers such as ice chests and coolers unless they are completely empty and free of all food residue; and tableware and cookware.

Other requirements are as follows:

- All food items must be removed from your car and stored in the food-storage boxes at the trailhead.
- All food items must be stored properly at all times unless they are being used, prepared, or consumed. Proper storage methods include using an animal-resistant food-storage container, food-storage boxes, and the counter-balance technique to hang your food items. These parks strongly recommend that all campers carry all food items in a park-allowed animal-resistant food-storage container or pannier. You must use a food storage container if camping in an area without adequate trees or food-storage boxes.
- Portable park-allowed animal-resistant food-storage containers are required in the following areas: Rae Lakes Loop, Dusy Basin/Bishop Pass Corridor, the Rock Creek Drainage and many Inyo National Forest trails.
- Food-storage box locations are available at permit issuing stations and in the Wilderness Trip Planner.
- Caching food or gear within food-storage boxes is prohibited. Food-storage boxes are for immediate on-site use only.
- Report wildlife-related injuries, property damage, or unusual encounters to a ranger (in person or by phone).

CAMPFIRE RESTRICTIONS

Where fires are allowed, use only existing fire rings. Do not build new ones or add rocks to existing fire rings. Other requirements are as follows:

- Use only dead wood found on the ground. Do not chop live vegetation or remove dead branches from standing trees.
- Fires must be attended at all times.
- Pack out plastic and foil. Do not burn trash.
- Put out fires with water ½ hour before leaving your campsite and stir the ashes. Do not use dirt to put out fires.
- During times of high fire danger, additional campfire restrictions may be implemented.

No campfires at the following locations:

KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK	SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Above 10,000 ft. elevation• Granite Basin• Redwood Canyon	Kaweah River Drainage <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Above 9,000 ft. elevation• Hamilton Lakes Basin• Mineral King Valley above the Ranger Station Tule River Drainage <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summit Lake Basin• Dillonwood Area	Kern River Drainage <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Above 10,400 ft. elevation• Above 10,000 ft. elevation at these specific locations:<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Nine Lakes Basin & Big Arroyo-Lower Crabtree Meadow, <i>within a ¼ mile</i> of the food-storage locker

SANITATION

- Human waste must be buried 6" deep and at least 100 ft. from trails, camps, and all water sources. Pack out used toilet paper.
- Never wash directly in a water source. This includes washing clothes, dishes, and yourself. Carry water 100 ft. from the source before washing. Use and dispose of all soap, including biodegradable soap, away from water sources. All soap pollutes.

FISHING REGULATIONS

A California fishing license is required. State regulations apply above 9,000 ft. elevation. Below 9,000 ft. elevation, native species (Rainbow Trout, Sacramento Sucker, Kern Rainbow, Sculpin, and Roach) must be released and only barbless artificial flies or lures are authorized.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Wilderness is a place where self-reliance and preparedness is essential. Be prepared for a wide variety of hazardous situations.

SEARCH AND RESCUE POLICY

Search and rescue actions are conducted on a discretionary basis. The level and necessity of the response is determined through evaluation of the situation by field personnel. Rescuer safety is ALWAYS our first priority. These parks expect visitors to exhibit a high degree of self-reliance and responsibility for their own safety commensurate with the difficulty of their chosen activities. The higher risk the activity, the more you need to be prepared for dealing with emergency situations.

If you choose to carry a hand-held electronic signaling device, be familiar with its operation, limitations, and frequency of failure to transmit. Do not rely on it to summon rescue personnel or notify family you are "OK". Please see the "Advisory: Emergency satellite Locator Devices" bulletin for further information.

If you find yourself in a true emergency, and have exhausted all means of self-rescue, contact a ranger in the field, or call Park Dispatch at 559-565-3195 with a cell or satellite phone. There is little to no cell reception in most areas of these parks. When you make contact, provide clear, concise information regarding the nature & exact location of the problem or injury, as well as the number of people involved. Be aware that help may be several days out, and your best preparation is to be ready to help yourself.

Additional Safety Recommendations

- Do not camp under leaning trees or dead branches.
- We recommend that you treat or filter all water.
- Wash your hands often. Most wilderness illnesses are attributable to poor hygiene.

WILDERNESS INFORMATION

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Wilderness Office

47050 Generals Hwy #60 Three Rivers, CA 93271

559-565-3766 (phone) 559-565-4239 (fax)

www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness.htm

Group-Size Limits When Off Maintained Trails

Restrictions for group-size for off-maintained-trail travel are present in five specific areas. As more large groups have ventured off developed trails, impacts have increased, including trampling of vegetation and erosion. In the areas listed below, groups that travel ½ mile off maintained trails are limited to no more than 8 individuals (people and stock combined).

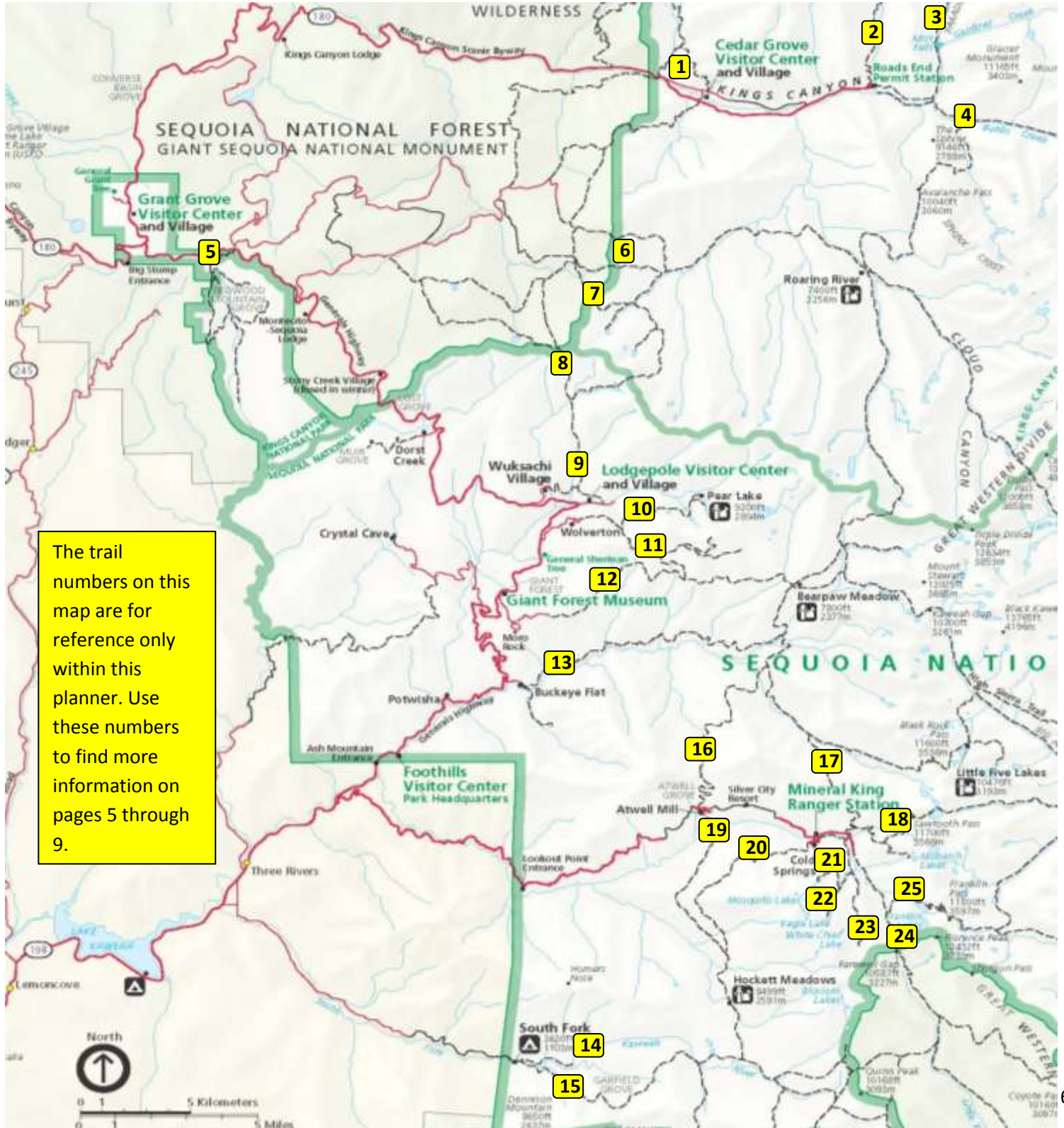
- **Lamarck Col, Darwin Canyon and Darwin Bench Area** – west of park boundary/Sierra crest; east of John Muir Trail; south of Mt. Goethe; north of Mt. Darwin.
- **Dusy and Palisade Basin Areas** – west of park boundary/Sierra crest; east of John Muir Trail; south of Mt. Goode; north of Norman Clyde Peak
- **Sixty Lake and Gardiner Basin Areas** – west of John Muir Trail; east of Paradise Valley trail; south of Woods Creek Trail; north of Bubbs Creek Trail (i.e. inside of Rae Lakes Loop)
- **Sphinx Creek and Lakes, and Mt. Brewer Range Areas** – west of Reflection/East Lakes Trail (to Mt. Jordan); east of Avalanche Pass/Cloud Canyon Trail; south of Bubbs Creek Trail; north of Kings Canyon/Sequoia Park boundary
- **South of Mt. Whitney: Crabtree Lakes, Miter Basin, Mt. Langley, and Army Pass Areas** – west of park boundary/Sierra crest; east and north of Pacific Crest Trail; south of Mts. Russell & Young.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks
Wilderness Office
559-565-3766
www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness.htm

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

Trail Overview

From oak woodlands to granite peaks, the trails of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks offer many wilderness travel options for any season. Snowshoes or skis make winter travel easier and good hiking boots usually suffice for the rest of the year. Within the parks, trails start from five major geographic areas: Kings Canyon (Cedar Grove/Roads End), Grant Grove, Lodgepole/Giant Forest, Foothills (Middle and South Fork), and Mineral King. Trails also enter the parks from Inyo National Forest to the east, Sequoia National Forest to the south and west, and Sierra National Forest to the north and west. The trails described in this planner are merely the beginnings of an extensive network. Over 800 miles of maintained trails plus endless cross-country routes wind through the parks. Be sure to grab a detailed map and plan to take a day, a week, or a lifetime to explore. Information about purchasing maps and guidebooks is on page 31.



Kings Canyon Area Trails

(Cedar Grove/Road's End)

Obtain permits for these trails at Road's End Permit Station (located at the end of Hwy 180)

- Typical Hours from Memorial Day weekend to mid-September: 7am to 3pm
- Trailhead numbers correspond to the map on page 6.
- Abbreviations: JMT = John Muir Trail, PCT = Pacific Crest Trail

Trail #	Trail Name	Daily Entry Quota	Destination(s)	First Camping Area	Trailhead & High Point Elevations	Recommended USGS 7.5" Map(s)
1	Lewis Creek	25 people	Frypan Meadow, Kennedy Pass	3.5 miles to Comb Creek	4,000' & 10,820' at Kennedy Pass	Cedar Grove, Slide Bluffs
Leaves from Lewis Creek. Hot, strenuously steep, few people. Plan to start early in the day. Access to Grizzly Lakes, Kennedy Lakes, and Kennedy Canyon. Trail through Kennedy Canyon is faint and should be treated as a cross-country route. The Lewis Creek drainage showcases recent fire ecology. No campfires above 10,000 ft.						
2	Copper Creek	20 people	Granite Basin & Lake	4.4 miles to Lower Tent Meadow	5,000' & 10,673' at Granite Pass	The Sphinx, Marion Peak
Leaves from Road's End. Hot and steep. Plan to start early in the day. Access to Granite Basin, Granite Lake, Volcanic Lakes, State Lakes, and Middle Fork of the Kings River. No campfires in Granite Basin or above 10,000 ft.						
3	Woods Creek	25 people	Paradise Valley, Rae Lakes Loop	6.5 miles to Lower Paradise Valley	5,000' & 11,978 at Glen Pass	The Sphinx, Mt. Clarence King
Leaves from Road's End. Start of the very popular Rae Lakes Loop, in the easier clockwise direction. Dramatic and diverse. Steady, moderate climb. Access to the JMT/PCT. Two-night camping limit for Paradise Valley, Charlotte Lake, Kearsarge Lakes, and each lake in the Rae Lakes area. No campfires above 10,000 ft. Animal-resistant food-storage containers required. Many people.						
4	Bubbs Creek	25 people	East lake, Rae Lakes Loop	4 miles to Sphinx Creek	5,000' & 11,978' at Glen Pass	The Sphinx, Mt. Clarence King
Leaves from Road's End. Start of the popular Rae Lakes Loop, in the more strenuous counter-clockwise direction. Dramatic and diverse. Steep and strenuous to Sphinx Creek, then steady and moderate climb. Access to East Lake at Junction meadow. Access to the JMT/PCT at Vidette Meadow. Two-night camping limit at Charlotte Lake, Kearsarge Lakes, and one-night camping limit at each lake in the Rae Lakes area. No campfires above 10,000 ft. Animal-resistant food-storage containers required. Many people.						

Grant Grove (NPS) & Big Meadows Area (USFS) Trails

Obtain permits for these trails at the Kings Canyon Visitor Center, located in Grant Grove

- Typical permit hours from Memorial Day weekend to mid-September: 8am to 4:30pm
- Trailhead numbers correspond to the map on page 6.

Trail #	Trail Name	Daily Entry Quota	Destination(s)	First Camping Area	Trailhead & High Point Elevations	Recommended USGS 7.5" Map(s)
5	Redwood Canyon	15 people	Redwood Canyon, Big Springs	2 miles to Redwood Creek	6,200' & 7,000' on Redwood Mtn.	General Grant Grove
Leaves from the Redwood Saddle. Relatively easy trail through one of the largest sequoia groves. Two 6.5-mile loops can be combined. Maximum group size is 10 people. Two-night camping limit. No campfires.						
6	Sugarloaf	25 people	Sugarloaf Creek, Roaring River	2 miles to Rowell Meadow	7,925' & 9,200' near Pond Mdw.	Mt. Silliman, Sphinx Lakes
Leaves from the Big Meadows Road (USFS). Moderate. Forests, creeks, meadows, glaciated canyons. Access from the Big Meadows Road to the Marvin Pass trailhead or the Sunset Meadow trailhead. No campfires above 10,000 ft.						
7	Belle Canyon	25 people	Seville, Lost, & Ranger Lakes	2 miles to Rowell Meadow	7,925' & 9,120' at unnamed saddle	Muir Grove, Mt. Silliman
Leaves from the Big Meadows Road (USFS). Moderate. Forests, lakes, vistas. Combine with the JO Pass Trail for a loop option through Jennie Lakes Wilderness. No campfires above 10,000 ft. in Kings Canyon National Park. No campfires above 9,000 ft. in the Kaweah River drainage of Sequoia						
8	JO Pass	15 people	Twin Lakes	2 miles to Rowell Meadow	7,925' & 9,414' at JO Pass	Muir Grove, Mt. Silliman
Leaves from the Big Meadows Road (USFS). Moderate. Forests, lakes, vistas. Combine with the Belle Canyon Trail for a loop option through Jennie Lakes Wilderness. No campfires above 10,000 ft. in Kings Canyon National Park. No campfires above 9,000 ft. in the Kaweah River drainage of Sequoia National Park.						

Special Note for Jennie Lakes Wilderness, Sequoia National Forest (USFS)

If you access Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks through the Jennie Lakes Wilderness, you are subject to a daily entry quota (for trail #'s 6, 7, or 8). The quota you must fit within is based on where you spend your first night in the national parks. If you camp only in the Jennie Lakes Wilderness and never camp in the national parks, you do not need a wilderness permit. The Sequoia National Forest only requires a fire permit to use a stove and/or build a campfire.

- The quota for Belle Canyon trail includes destinations such as Seville Lake, Lost Lake, and Ranger Lake.
- The quota for Sugarloaf trail includes destinations such as Comanche Meadow, Sugarloaf Valley, and Roaring River.
- The quota for JO Pass trail includes destinations such as Twin Lakes, Clover Creek and Cahoon Gap.

Lodgepole/Giant Forest Area Trails

Obtain permits for these trails at the Lodgepole Visitor Center, located in the Lodgepole area.

- Typical permit hours from Memorial Day weekend to mid-September: 7 am to 11 am & 12 pm to 3:30 pm
- Trailhead numbers correspond to the map on page 6.

Trail #	Trail Name	Daily Entry Quota	Destination(s)	First Camping Area	Trailhead & High Point Elevations	Recommended USGS 7.5" Map(s)
9	Twin Lakes	30 people	Twin Lakes	3 miles to Cahoon Meadow	6,700' & 10,160' at Silliman Pass	Mt. Silliman, Lodgepole
Leaves from Lodgepole Campground area. Moderately steep. Forests, meadows, lakes. Connect with trail #'s 6, 7, and/or 8 to make a lollipop loop. No campfires above 9,000 ft. in Kaweah River Drainage (thus, no campfires at Twin Lakes) and no campfires above 10,000 ft. in Kings Canyon National Park.						
10	Lakes Trail	25 people	Pear & Emerald Lakes, Tablelands	5 miles to Emerald Lake	7,200' & 9,500' at Pear Lake	Lodgepole
Leaves from Wolverton. Moderately steep. Lakes and cross-country access to the Tablelands. No campfires at the lakes or beyond in the Tablelands. No camping at Heather or Aster Lakes. Camp only in designated sites at Pear and Emerald Lakes. This trail is NOT RESERVABLE and daily quotas may vary during times of high use.						
11	Alta	25 people	Alta Peak	3 miles to Panther Gap (no water)	7,200' & 11,200' at Alta Peak	Lodgepole
Leaves from Wolverton. Steady climb to Alta Peak. Campfires only allowed at Panther Gap and Mehrten Meadow. A spur trail connects with the High Sierra Trail.						
12	High Sierra	30 people	Bearpaw Meadow/ Mt Whitney	6 miles to Mehrten Creek	6,700' & 14,494' at Mt. Whitney	See complete list below
Leaves from Crescent Meadow. Eventually leads to the summit of Mount Whitney, approximately 70 miles away. A dramatic trans-Sierra route that crosses the Great Western Divide, drops to the Kern Canyon, and climbs again to the highest peak in the contiguous 48 states. Campfire restrictions vary; see page 4 for more details. Camp only at designated sites at Bearpaw Meadow. Recommended topographic maps for entire trail include Lodgepole, Triple Divide Peak, Mt. Kaweah, Chagoopa Falls, Mt. Whitney, and Mt. Langley.						

Special Note for Guests of Bearpaw & Sequoia High Sierra Camps

- With a reservation for Bearpaw High Sierra Camp, you are not subject to the daily entry quota or wilderness camping fee if you spend all nights at the camp. However, you must obtain a wilderness permit from the Lodgepole Visitor Center. If you spend any nights elsewhere, you are subject to the quota and fee for the High Sierra trail.
- You are subject to daily quotas and wilderness permit fees if you plan to camp in the wilderness before or after your stay at Sequoia High Sierra Camp, if entering on Sugarloaf, Belle Canyon, JO Pass, or Twin Lakes trailheads.

Foothills Area Trails

Obtain permits for these trails at the Wilderness Office, near the Foothills Visitor Center.

- Permit hours from Memorial Day weekend to mid-September: 8 am to 4:00 pm
- Trailhead numbers correspond to the map on page 6.

Trail #	Trail Name	Daily Entry Quota	Destination(s)	First Camping Area	Trailhead & High Point Elevations	Recommended USGS 7.5" Map(s)
13	Middle Fork	25 people	Redwood Meadow Grove, Bearpaw Meadow	3.5 miles to Panther Creek	3,800' & 7,800' at Bearpaw Meadow	Lodgepole, Triple Divide Peak
Leaves from east of Buckeye Campground. Slight grade along Middle Fork of Kaweah River and then steepens after 13 miles. Oaks, chaparral, river, vistas. Best in spring, fall, and winter; not recommended in heat of summer. Watch for ticks, poison oak, and rattlesnakes. Wilderness permits available at the Ash Mountain Wilderness Office, inquire at the Foothills Visitor Center for directions.						
14	Ladybug	15 people	South Fork Grove	4 miles to Ladybug Camp	3,600' & 6,000' at South Fork Grove	Dennison Peak, Moses Mtn.
Leaves from South Fork Campground. Short trail ends at South Fork Grove in 5 miles. Giant sequoia trees, river. Best in spring, fall, and winter. Watch for ticks, poison oak, and rattlesnakes.						
15	Garfield Grove	15 people	Garfield Grove, Hockett Plateau	4 miles to Garfield Grove	3,600' & 8,500' at Hockett Meadow	Dennison Peak, Moses Mtn.
Leaves from South Fork Campground. Steep and challenging climb. Good early-season trail. Giant sequoia trees; meadows and lakes on plateau. Watch for ticks, poison oak, and rattlesnakes at lower elevations.						

Special Note for Foothills Visitors

For your personal safety, carefully weigh the risk of venturing off trail in the foothills. Illegal marijuana gardens and associated drug traffickers have been found in these areas. These parks work diligently to address the problem, but you should be aware of the issue. If you stay on the established trails you should greatly minimize, if not eliminate, the risk. Report anything suspicious to a park ranger.

Mineral King Area Trails

Obtain permits for these trails at the Mineral King Ranger Station.

- Typical permit hours from Memorial Day weekend to mid-September: 8 am to 4:00 pm
- Trailhead numbers correspond to the map on page 6.

Trail #	Trail Name	Daily Entry Quota	Destination(s)	First Camping Area	Trailhead & High Point Elevations	Recommended USGS 7.5" Map(s)
16	Paradise Ridge	15 people	Atwell Grove, Redwood Mdw	3 miles to Paradise Ridge (no water)	6,500' & 8,400' at Paradise Ridge	Silver City, Lodgepole
Leaves from Atwell Mill Campground. Steep and dry on both sides of Paradise Ridge. Giant Sequoias and vistas. Side trip: unmaintained trail to Paradise Peak. Nine miles to Redwood Meadow. Trail is difficult to follow.						
17	Timber Gap	25 people	Cliff Creek	2.7 miles to Timber Gap	7,800' & 9,400' at Timber Gap	Mineral King
Leaves from Sawtooth Trailhead. Forests to Cliff Creek, alpine access over Blackrock Pass. Combine with trail #s 18 or 25 for loop options past Little and Big Five Lakes. See page 4 for campfire restrictions in the area.						
18	Sawtooth Pass	20 people	Monarch & Crystal Lakes	4 miles to Lower Monarch Lake	7,800' & 11,630' at Sawtooth Pass	Mineral King
Leaves from Sawtooth Trailhead. Steep and strenuous. Lakes, vistas. Access to Kern Canyon. Rough, difficult to follow, unmaintained trail between Monarch and Columbine Lakes over Sawtooth Pass. Can combine with trail #s 17 or 25 for loop options. No campfires west of Sawtooth Pass. See page 4 for campfire restrictions in the Kern River Drainage.						
19	Atwell-Hockett	25 people	Hockett Plateau	6 miles to Clover Creek	6,600' & 8,500' at Hockett Meadow	Silver City, Moses Mountain
Leaves from Atwell Mill Campground. Moderate. Giant Sequoias, forests, meadows. 9.8 miles to Hockett Meadow. Popular stock trail.						
20	Tar Gap	25 people	Hockett Plateau	4 miles to Deer Creek	7,500' & 8,600' at Tar Gap Ridge	Silver City, Moses Mountain
Leaves from Cold Springs Campground. Moderate. Giant Sequoias, forests, meadows. 9.4 miles to Hockett Meadow. Popular stock trail.						
21	Mosquito/ Mineral	25 people	Mosquito Lakes	4 miles to Mosquito Lake #2	7,800' & 9,080' at Mosquito lake #2	Mineral King
Leaves from Eagle/ Mosquito Trailhead. Moderately strenuous. Lakes, forests, vistas. Cross-country to upper Mosquito Lakes and Mineral Lakes. No campfires.						
22	Eagle Lake	20 people	Eagle Lake	3.4 miles to Eagle Lake	7,800' & 10,010' at Eagle Lake	Mineral King
Leaves from Eagle/ Mosquito Trailhead. Steady and steep. Lakes, vistas, sinkholes. No camping between the trail and the lake. No campfires.						
23	White Chief	25 people	White Chief Bowl	4 miles to White Chief Bowl	7,800' & 10,200' at trail's end	Mineral King
Leaves from Eagle/ Mosquito Trailhead. Moderately strenuous. Colorful canyon filled with history. Meadows, sinkholes, mines, vistas. No campfires.						
24	Farewell Gap	No quota	Golden Trout Wilderness	3.4 miles to Farewell Junction	7,800' & 10,600' at Farewell Gap	Mineral King
Leaves from Franklin Pass Trailhead. Steep and strenuous. Lakes, vistas. Access to points in Golden Trout Wilderness (such as Bullfrog Lakes and Little Kern River) and Kern Canyon. No campfires north of Farewell Gap. See page 4 for campfire restrictions in the Kern River drainage of Sequoia National Park.						
25	Franklin Pass	30 people	Franklin Lakes	6 miles to Lower Franklin Lake	7,800' & 11,800' at Franklin Pass	Mineral King
Leaves from Franklin Pass Trailhead. Steep and strenuous. Lakes, vistas. Access to Kern Canyon. No campfires west of Franklin Pass. See page 4 for campfire restrictions east of Franklin Pass in the Kern River drainage. Combine with trail #s 17, 18, or 24 for loop options.						

Special Note for Mineral King Visitors

See “Marmots in Mineral King” on page 26.

The Iconic Hikes: Mount Whitney, JMT, & PCT

Mount Whitney

As the highest peak in the contiguous 48 states, Mount Whitney is an extremely popular destination. Inyo National Forest administers a lottery every February to allocate wilderness permits for both day hikes and overnight hikes starting from Whitney Portal. The 2013 Mt. Whitney lottery will be online at Recreation.gov starting February 1, 2013. Contact Inyo National Forest for details about the process at (760) 873-2483 or <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/inyo/passes-permits/recreation>.

With tens of thousands of people in this fragile, alpine environment every year, human waste and toilet paper must be packed out! Pack-out kits are available at the Eastern Sierra Interagency Visitor Center in Lone Pine or along the High Sierra Trail near the Crabtree Ranger Station. For more details, visit <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/inyo/passes-permits/recreation/?cid=stelprdb5150055> and click on "Mt. Whitney Trail".

Animal-resistant food-storage containers are required when camping on the east side of Trail Crest. All food, trash, and scented items must fit inside the container while in the Mount Whitney zone. See a map of this zone at http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_MEDIA/stelprdb5347549.jpg

Permits obtained for the western trailheads from Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks are valid to climb Mt. Whitney and exit via the Mount Whitney Trail - no extra permits are required. Keep in mind that the hike is much longer. For example, if you start on the High Sierra Trail from Crescent Meadow, you must travel nearly 80 miles across the Sierra Nevada to exit at Whitney Portal.

Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT)

Stretching from the Mexican border to beyond the Canadian border, the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail is one of our country's classic long distance trails. Of the PCT's 2,638 miles, nearly 100 miles pass through these parks.

As a thru-hiker, you must obtain a permit through the Pacific Crest Trail Association (www.pcta.org). As a section hiker, you obtain a permit from the agency who manages your starting trailhead. Both types of wilderness permits are valid for travel through these parks.

The PCT passes through the Rock Creek and Rae Lakes Loop animal-resistant food-storage container requirement areas (described on page 18) where through-hikers are required to either use animal-resistant containers or food-storage boxes located along the trail. You must use the animal-resistant containers or boxes to store all your food, garbage, and scented items.

John Muir Trail (JMT)

The same food-storage requirements described above for PCT hikers also apply to JMT through-hikers. From its northern terminus in Yosemite Valley, the JMT runs northeast, passing south of Half Dome and then on to Tuolumne Meadows. From there the trail turns south, through Yosemite National Park, Inyo and Sierra National Forests and Kings Canyon National Park, and ending on Mount Whitney in Sequoia National Park

Food Resupply

Rendezvous in the Field

Food drops are allowed only when you are there, in person, to receive the delivery **directly** from a friend or a commercial pack station. All food wrappers, empty boxes, and other trash must be carried out by the person meeting you. Food drops **CANNOT** be left in food-storage boxes or cached anywhere in the park. If food is found, it will be confiscated by rangers.

Mailing Supplies to the Front-country

US Post Offices are open year-round in Lodgepole (559-565-3468) and Grant Grove (559-335-2499). Contact the postmasters at these locations for guidelines about mailing packages via general delivery.

Wilderness Permits

Trips Starting Inside Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks

To protect the wilderness and preserve the wilderness experience for present and future generations, all overnight trips require a wilderness permit subject to daily entry quotas for each trail. Day hikes do not require a permit, except for Mount Whitney (see page 12 for more details). Wilderness permits are only issued at the visitor center or permit station closest to the trailhead (see pages 6, 7-11). The trail descriptions in the previous pages detail where permits can be obtained and the daily entry quota for each trail.

Inside the Quota Period

Daily entry quotas (the number of people who are allowed to start hiking on a trail each day) are in place from the Friday before Memorial Day weekend through late September every year. During this time, each permit incurs a \$15 wilderness camping fee, regardless of the group size or length of trip.

Outside the Quota Period

From late September to the Thursday before Memorial Day weekend, permits are not limited by quotas. Wilderness permits are still required; they are self-issued at the visitor center or permit station closest to the trailhead and are free.

Permit Reservations

Reservations for wilderness permits are available for approximately two-thirds of each daily entry quota, except for the Lakes Trail (toward Emerald and Pear lakes – permits are not available for reservation). Permit reservations are highly recommended for large groups, holiday weekends, and late summer weekends.

A permit reservation confirmation letter is NOT the same as a permit and is NOT sufficient for overnight travel. You must pick up your actual wilderness permit at the visitor center or permit station closest to the trailhead (see pages 6, 7-11) on the afternoon before your trip after 1 p.m. or no later than 9 a.m. on the morning of your departure. For a late pickup, unless you notify the Wilderness Office by phone (559-565-3766) before the day of your trip, your reserved spot in the quota will be given away on a first-come, first-serve basis to those people physically waiting in line. Please note that the Wilderness Office receives a very high volume of calls at times around and during the permit reservation period. In order to make your plans with more ease, using all Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks resources found both online and in this planner before calling our offices will save you time. If you are still unable to find an answer, please e-mail us at SEKI_Wilderness_Office@nps.gov or call and leave a message at (559) 565-3766. Your inquiries will be answered as soon as possible. Calls are returned in the order in which they are received.

Walk-up/First-come, First-serve Permits

Approximately one-third of each quota is available on a first-come, first-serve basis starting at 1 p.m. the day before departure, or on the day of departure at the visitor center or permit station closest to the trailhead (see pages 6, 7-11 for typical permit issuing hours).

Guests of Bearpaw & Sequoia High Sierra Camps:

Please read the box titled “Special Note for Guests of Bearpaw & Sequoia High Sierra Camps” on page 9.

Wilderness Permits (continued)

For Trails Starting Outside Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

Inyo National Forest issues permits east of the parks. Most trails have quotas and reservations are accepted. Popular trails into the parks include Piute Pass, Bishop Pass, Taboose Pass, Sawmill Pass, Baxter Pass, Kearsarge Pass, Shepherd Pass, Trail Pass (Mount Whitney), Cottonwood Lakes, and Cottonwood Pass. For reservations, go to www.recreation.gov. For more information contact: Inyo National Forest, Wilderness Office (760) 873-2483

Eastern Sierra Interagency Visitor Center (760) 876-6222

www.fs.fed.us/r5/inyo/recreation/wild/.

Sequoia National Forest issues permits to the south and west of the parks, has no quotas, and only requires wilderness permits for the Golden Trout Wilderness (not for the Jennie Lakes Wilderness). Fire permits are required and can be found online at http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia/passespermits/campfire_permit/campfire-index.html.

Common trails into the parks from the Golden Trout Wilderness include Forks of the Kern, Jerky, Fish Creek, Clicks, Summit, and Long Canyon. For more information contact: Sequoia National Forest (559) 784-1500

www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia/passespermits/wilderness_permit/wilderness_index.html

Sierra National Forest issues permits to the north and west of the parks. Quotas exist and reservations are accepted.

Common trails into the parks include Crown/Rancheria, Courtright, Deer Cove, Florence, and Mono Creek. For more information contact: Sierra National Forest, High Sierra Ranger District (559) 855-5360

www.fs.fed.us/r5/sierra/passes/getwildpermit.html

Trailhead Name	From Whom to Get Wilderness Permits	Destination Inside Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks
Baxter Pass	Inyo National Forest	Baxter Lakes, Rae Lakes, Sixty Lakes Basin
Bishop Pass	Inyo National Forest	Dusy Basin, LeConte Canyon
Clicks	Sequoia National Forest	Kern Canyon, Mineral King
Courtright	Sierra National Forest	Goddard Canyon
Cottonwood Lakes	Inyo National Forest	Rock Creek, Miter Basin, Soldier Lakes
Cottonwood Pass	Inyo National Forest	Rock Creek, Siberian Outpost
Crown/Rancheria	Sierra National Forest	Tehipite Valley, Middle Fork Kings River
Fish Creek	Sequoia National Forest	Kern Canyon
Florence Lake	Sierra National Forest	Evolution Valley, Goddard Canyon
Forks of the Kern	Sequoia National Forest	Kern Canyon
Jerky	Sequoia National Forest	Kern Canyon
Kearsarge Pass	Inyo National Forest	Kearsarge Lakes, Charlotte Lake, Rae Lakes, Center Basin
Lamarck Lakes	Inyo National Forest	Darwin Canyon, Evolution Valley
Lewis Camp	Sequoia National Forest	Kern Canyon
Long Canyon	Sequoia National Forest	Hockett Plateau, Mineral King
Meysan Lake	Inyo National Forest	Miter Basin
Mount Whitney	Inyo National Forest	Hitchcock Lakes, Crabtree
North Fork, Lone Pine Creek	Inyo National Forest	Mount Russell, Tulainyo Lake, Wales Lake, Wallace Lake
North Fork, Big Pine Creek	Inyo National Forest	Dusy Basin, Palisades Basin
Piute Pass	Inyo National Forest	Evolution Valley
Sawmill Pass	Inyo National Forest	Woods Lake, Twin Lakes
Shepherd Pass	Inyo National Forest	Diamond Mesa, Tyndall Creek, Bighorn Plateau
South Fork, Big Pine Creek	Inyo National Forest	Palisades Basin, Dusy Basin
Summit	Sequoia National Forest	Hockett Plateau, Mineral King, Kern Canyon
Taboose Pass	Inyo National Forest	Bench Lake, Upper Basin
Wishon Reservoir	Sierra National Forest	Ionian Basin, Goddard Canyon



National
Park
Service

Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks Wilderness Permit Reservation Application

IMPORTANT TRIP INFORMATION - PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

These National Parks **ONLY** accept reservations for the following entry trailheads:

Cedar Grove Area: Copper Creek, Lewis Creek, and to hike the Rae Lakes Loop *clockwise*: **Entry** Woods Creek Trail (through Paradise Valley) & **Exit** Bubbs Creek Trail. For Rae Lakes Loop in the *counterclockwise* direction: **Entry** Bubbs Creek Trail & **Exit** Woods Creek Trail.

Grant Grove Area: Sugarloaf, Belle Canyon (toward Seville Lake), JO Pass, Redwood Canyon.

Lodgepole Area: Alta (Wolverton parking lot), High Sierra (Crescent Meadow parking lot), Twin Lakes.

Ash Mountain/Foothills area: Middle Fork Kaweah River, Ladybug, Garfield Grove.

Mineral King Area: Atwell-Hockett, Tar Gap, Mosquito/Mineral, Eagle Lake, White Chief, Farewell Gap, Franklin Pass, Sawtooth Pass, Timber Gap, and Paradise Ridge.

All permits for the Lakes Trail (*Pear & Emerald Lakes*) are issued on a first-come, first-serve basis at the Lodgepole Visitor Center. **Reservations are not accepted for the Lakes Trail.**

If you plan to start your hike outside the parks on the following trails, contact **Inyo National Forest**: 760-873-2483, www.fs.usda.gov/inyo, or www.Recreation.gov for more information and permit reservations. Bishop, Plute, Taboose, Sawmill, Baxter, or Shepherd Passes, Onion Valley/Kearsarge Pass, Mount Whitney, Cottonwood Lakes and Cottonwood Pass. Additional trails start on the Inyo National Forest that access these national parks.

List alternate entry dates and/or trails, in order of preference, in case your first choice is unavailable.

The Entry Date is the date your entire party must actually start at the entry trail.

By submitting this application, you accept the conditions on the back of this form.

(Please print boldly and clearly in the table below):

	Entry Date	Entry Trail Reference List Above	Exit Date	Exit Trail Reference List Above
1 st Choice				
2 nd Choice				
3 rd Choice				

(Include additional choices on a separate page, if necessary)

Number of People in group: _____ Number of Stock Animals: _____

Is this a GUIDED/ORGANIZED group? NO _____ YES: Group name: _____

(To find out if your group requires a Special Use Permit (SUP) or a Commercial Use Authorization (CUA), go to www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/permits.htm. Additional fees are associated.)

TRIP LEADER INFORMATION

PRINT BOLDLY AND CLEARLY

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Day Time Phone (____) _____

E-mail _____

PAYMENT

Reservations require **PRE-PAYMENT** of the \$15.00 wilderness camping fee. Fees are non-refundable once they have been processed.

Make checks or money orders payable to: **National Park Service** and mail to address below.

To pay by credit card, please provide the following and mail or fax to number below. Please print clearly.

Credit card# _____

Expiration date (MM/YY) _____ / _____

Name on card _____

Signature _____

Mail applications to: (earliest postmark March 1)

Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks
Wilderness Permit Reservations
47050 Generals Highway #60
Three Rivers, CA 93271

OR

FAX (credit cards only) to: (559)565-4239

Reservation applications are **ONLY** accepted from midnight (PST), **March 1 to September 10** of each calendar year by mail or fax. Applications received outside of these dates will not be processed. Applications must be received a **minimum of 2 weeks in advance** of a trip's start date. Pre-payment must accompany the application.

PLEASE READ OTHER CONDITIONS on the back of this form. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness or call 559-565-3766.

Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks Wilderness Permit Reservation Instructions

Step 1: Fill out the application form

Write clearly, boldly, and stay within the borders of the form. Fill out completely. If information is **not** legible, the Wilderness Office will need to contact you delaying the application process and risking your opportunities for your first choice. Include a good day time phone number. Be sure to sign the form.

Step 2: Include pre-payment with your application form

Applications must include pre-payment of the \$15.00 wilderness camping fee. This fee is the same for all reservations, regardless of the group size or the trip length. Payment may be made by credit card (VISA or MC only) or by check/money order payable to the "National Park Service." The \$15.00 wilderness camping fee prepaid during the reservation process is not refundable, not transferable to other parties or future years, and is not available for re-sale. If you are unsuccessful in obtaining a reservation, your credit card will not be charged or your check/money order will be returned or destroyed.

Step 3: Submit your wilderness permit reservation application

Applications are only accepted by mail or by fax. Mail to: Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks, Wilderness Office, 47050 Generals Hwy # 60, Three Rivers, CA 93271. Fax to: (559) 565-4239. Applications will not be processed over the phone. Submit **only one** application per group. Duplicate applications, even from different members of the group, may result in duplicate, non-refundable charges. Separate trips must be on separate applications with payment for each application. *Please*, do not fax the same application multiple times.

Step 4: The Wilderness Office processes your application

Application requests will be processed in the order they are received. No preference is given to one method of submission over another. A lottery system is not used.

Step 5: The Wilderness Office confirms the status of your reservation by mail

All requests will receive a written response. Allow up to two weeks to receive your confirmation letter in the mail. Please thoroughly read the confirmation letter. After your reservation has been processed, one change (such as adding people, different entry date, or different entry trail) may be made without additional cost. Any additional changes will incur a \$10 processing fee. Changes that add people, enter on a different trail, or enter on a different date must be made with one week of the start date you have already reserved. Changes that reduce people will be accepted at any time and never incur the processing fee.

Step 6: If necessary, make arrangements for a late pick-up of your wilderness permit

If you will be picking up your wilderness permit after 9 a.m. on the morning of your departure, you must notify the Wilderness Office by phone before the day of your trip. Reserved spots in the quota with no late pick-up arrangements will be given away on a first-come, first-serve basis to those people physically waiting in line.

Step 7: Bring your confirmation letter to pick up your wilderness permit at the visitor center or permit station closest to the trail head

Your confirmation letter is NOT a wilderness permit and is not sufficient for overnight travel. You must pick up your actual wilderness permit at the visitor center or permit station closest to the trailhead on the afternoon before or by 9 a.m. on the morning of departure. Your confirmation letter will specify the visitor center or permit station where you must pick up your wilderness permit and detail its usual operating hours (which are subject to change due to emergencies or staffing reductions after the Labor Day holiday). If you come prepared with your estimated itinerary, you will greatly speed up the process of issuing your wilderness permit.

Other Information for Reservations and Wilderness Permits Issued by Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks

Permits are required year-round for all overnight wilderness trips. Daily entry trail quotas are in place from the Friday before Memorial Day through late September. Outside the quota period, permits are obtained on a self-issue basis at visitor centers or permit stations. Permits are not required for day hikes (except for Mount Whitney from the Whitney Portal trailhead near Lone Pine on the Inyo National Forest). The Lakes Trail is the only trail for which reservations are not accepted.

Your entire group must enter the **wilderness** on the **entry date** and **entry trail** specified in the confirmation letter. Each party must travel together throughout the trip. The maximum group size is 15 people and 20 head of stock. Parties with separate permits but sharing the same affiliation (school, church, club, scout group, family, friends, etc., or any combination thereof) may not travel or camp within ½ mile of each other if the total number of people exceeds 15.

For more wilderness information, including specific restrictions and requirements related to camping, campfires and portable animal-resistant food-storage containers, you may contact the Wilderness Office at (559) 565-3766 or visit our website at www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness.htm. **Have a great trip!**

The U.S. Department of the Interior (USDI) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital or family status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. USDI is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Leave No Trace

Note: Italicized sections of text in this section are legal restrictions in these parks and offenses are citable.

Each wilderness visitor has two important responsibilities. The first is to "Leave No Trace" of your passing. The second is to reduce the traces of other people's visits. Pack out your used toilet paper. Pick up that granola bar wrapper - it likely slipped out of a pocket unbeknownst to that backpacker. Help spread the message! We all need to do everything we can to preserve our wild places like the wildernesses in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

Leave No Trace is a national education program that promotes the responsible enjoyment and active stewardship of the outdoors. The National Park Service is just one of many partners encouraging everyone to practice the seven principles of Leave No Trace. For other tips and more details about Leave No Trace, visit www.lnt.org.

Plan Ahead and Prepare

Know the restrictions, regulations and special concerns for the area you'll visit. Prepare for extreme weather, hazards, and emergencies. Visit in small groups when possible. *Maximum group size is 15 people & 20 head of stock, 8 in some off-trail areas.* Select terrain, mileage, and elevation changes that match the skills and abilities of your group. Carry appropriate food, clothing, equipment, and water. Ensure you have the essentials. Repackage food to minimize waste.

Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

Never camp on vegetation, especially meadows. Camp on bare ground, such as established sites, rock, gravel, or snow. Avoid camping beneath dead trees or overhanging dead branches. Protect riparian areas by camping at least 100 ft. from water where terrain permits. Campsites must always be at least 25 ft. from water. Good campsites are found, not made. *"Improvements" such as rock walls, trenches, or bough beds are prohibited. Building new fire rings is prohibited.*

Dispose of Waste Properly

Pack out all trash, leftover food, and litter. Inspect your campsite and rest areas for trash or spilled foods. Deposit solid human waste in cat holes dug 6 to 8 inches deep at least 100 ft. from water, campsites, and trails. Cover and disguise the cat hole when finished. Pack out toilet paper and hygiene products. Bring plastic baggies solely for this purpose. Never wash yourself, dishes, or clothes directly in a water source. Carry water for these purposes at least 100 ft. away from streams and lakes. Scatter strained dishwater.

Leave What You Find

Preserve the past. *Do not take or disturb cultural or historic artifacts. Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them.* Avoid introducing or transporting non-native species - brush off your boots and clean your trekking poles before and after your trip.

Minimize Campfire Impact

Follow the campfire restrictions detailed on page 4. Campfires can cause lasting impacts. You create the least impact if you use only a stove for cooking and forego the campfire. *Where fires are permitted, use established fire rings. Do not build new ones or enlarge existing ones. Keep fires small. Only use dead wood from the ground that can be broken by hand. Always attend the fire. Completely extinguish campfires by drowning with water (not dirt) and stirring until all heat is gone. Thoroughly sift through the ashes with a stick and pack out plastic (when burned it emits toxic fumes), aluminum foil (foil does not burn), and all other trash.*

Respect Wildlife

Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow, disturb, or approach them. *Never feed animals.* Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviors, and exposes them to predators. Protect wildlife and your food by *storing food and trash securely.* See pages 18-19 for food-storage restrictions.

Be Considerate of Other Visitors

Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience. Be courteous. Yield to other users on the trail. Take breaks and camp away from trails and other visitors. Let nature's sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and noises.

Food-Storage & Bears

Eating well in the woods is an art. Keeping your food away from animals is a science. Help keep all wildlife wild by paying close attention to the techniques and restrictions discussed on this page and pages 3, 18-19.

Restrictions require proper food storage and prohibit feeding of any wildlife (violations can result in fines up to \$5000). As guests in the black bears' home, don't let your carelessness destroy them.

Among the wide diversity of animal species here in the parks is the black bear. Black bears (*Ursus americanus*) are the only species of bear in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks and are an integral part of the Sierra ecosystem. They can be brown, blonde, gray, black, or colors in between. Bears naturally forage for food by digging up roots, ripping apart logs, and eating berries. When human food is made available to a bear, these intelligent animals quickly change their natural behavior in order to continue obtaining the high calorie items. They can become destructive and dangerous in their attempts to obtain human food. When that happens, for human safety, they must be killed. This change in behavior can happen quickly, so each encounter is an important opportunity for you to keep a bear wild and natural. By following all food-storage restrictions and suggestions you can better enjoy your trip knowing you are helping to save the life of a bear.

Food items are defined as food meant for human, pet, stock consumption, food-tainted garbage and recyclables (empty cans and bottles, food wrappers, etc.), toiletries such as soap, toothpaste, and cosmetics, and any creams, ointments, or lotions. Food containers such as ice chests and coolers are also considered "*food items*", unless they are completely empty and free of food particles. If dirty, tableware and cookware must be washed or stored as a food item.

Mandatory Animal-Resistant Food-Storage Container Areas

All wilderness visitors must carry and use portable animal-resistant food-storage containers allowed by these parks within the Rae Lakes Loop vicinity, the Dusy & Palisades basins, and the Rock Creek drainage. This requirement is in effect from the Friday before Memorial Day through October 31. All garbage, scented items & food must be stored in the containers. PCT and JMT through-hikers may store all scented and food items in the metal food-storage boxes, instead of carrying containers.

Where containers are required, the techniques of counter-balancing, hanging food by other methods, or posting a guard to protect food are prohibited.

- **Rae Lakes Loop & Vicinity:** This area is accessed from Cedar Grove on the Bubbs Creek Trail or the Woods Creek Trail, from the John Muir Trail between Forester Pass and Sawmill Pass, and from the east via Sawmill Pass or Kearsarge Pass. The Inyo National Forest has an adjacent requirement in the Kearsarge Pass area that applies to all visitors.
- **Dusy & Palisades Basins:** This area includes Bishop Pass to the junction with the John Muir Trail in LeConte Canyon, Dusy Basin, and Palisades Basin. The Inyo National Forest has an adjacent requirement in the Bishop Pass area that applies to all visitors.
- **Rock Creek Drainage:** This area includes Miter Basin, Soldier Lake, Siberian Outpost, Rock Creek proper, and all cross-country routes. Specifically the area defined as the Rock Creek drainage west of Cottonwood and New Army Passes, south of Crabtree Pass, south of Guyot Pass, and north-northwest of the Sequoia National Park boundary and Siberian Pass. The Inyo National Forest has an adjacent requirement in the Cottonwood Lakes/Pass area that applies to all visitors.

For maps of areas described above that require container use visit:

www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/bear_bc.htm

www.fs.fed.us/r5/inyo/recreation/wild/bear.shtml

Best Idea: Carry and Use Food-storage Containers

Animal-resistant food-storage containers are strongly encouraged throughout the parks and are required in several areas. All permit issuing stations inside the parks rent them. For the latest models allowed and rental prices, visit our website. Other ranger stations outside the parks, such as those in Lone Pine and Bishop, have these containers available for rent. Also inquire at your local outdoor gear stores. Food-storage containers allow for maximum freedom when choosing campsites—you can stop when you're tired or explore areas without food-storage boxes (also known as "bear boxes"). Do not store animal-resistant food-storage containers in food-storage boxes. Your food is safe in a properly closed animal-resistant food-storage container. Leave the space for people who need the boxes to properly store their food.

Food-Storage & Bears (continued)

Good Option: Use Food-Storage Boxes

When in working condition and used properly, the metal food-storage boxes (also known as “bear boxes”) are guaranteed bear-resistant. However, boxes are not completely reliable. Winter snows and trees can damage them. In popular areas at popular times, boxes may fill up. Thus, you should still carry rope in case the boxes are full and/or broken or you do not reach your intended destination. Remember: Boxes must be shared with others camping in the area and cannot be locked with your personal padlock. Food may NOT be cached in these boxes for future use. Rangers will confiscate cached food.

Last Resort: Counter-Balance

Effective counter-balancing can be extremely difficult to achieve. The smart, persistent bears of these parks will get your food. This option is not a choice in treeless areas and only recommended as an absolute last resort. For illustrations and instructions to effectively counter-balance, be sure to visit: www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/bear_bc.htm

Before Your Trip

- Inform yourself about the food-storage restrictions in the areas you plan to visit. See pages 3, 18-19 for details. If you will be outside the container requirement areas, decide which method of food storage you will use (containers are highly recommended everywhere).
- If you decide to use food-storage boxes, please keep in mind they must be shared with others and locking them is not permitted. Carry rope to hang food in case the locker is full or you don't camp where you intended.
- Don't leave food containers (e.g., ice chests, bags, cans) or food items in your car at the trailhead. You must use the food-storage boxes where available. If there are none, contact a ranger for alternatives. Bears break into vehicles if they see or smell signs of food.
- Black bears are interested in your food, not you. No fatality due to bears has ever been recorded in these parks. When injuries have occurred, they have ALWAYS been associated with improper food storage.

On the Trail

- Never leave scented items unattended or outside a container - even for a short time, like a bathroom break.
- If you are considering a nap on the trail, make sure all your food is stored properly before falling asleep. In 2007, a napping hiker was bitten by a bear attempting to get the candy bar in his pocket.

Around Camp

- Store soap, sunscreen, toothpaste, garbage, lip balm, and other scented items in the same manner as you will food. Bears are attracted to anything with an odor.
- If a bear comes into your camp, you can often scare it away by making loud noises (such as banging pots together). Be bold, but keep a safe distance and use good judgment.
- If a bear does get your food, NEVER attempt to get it back. You are responsible for cleaning up any mess, packing out the debris, and reporting the incident to the nearest ranger.

After Your Trip

Please report all injuries, property damage, or unusual encounters with bears to a park ranger before leaving the parks. Your reports may help prevent future problems.

Learn About Bears in the Sierra Nevada at:

www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/bears.htm

Food-storage Locker Locations: Kings Canyon National Park

Note: Food storage locker locations and conditions listed below are accurate as of 2012. Box conditions can deteriorate. Some boxes may not be functional.

Bubbs Creek Drainage	
Sphinx Creek (2)	1 above Bubbs Creek trail east of crossing; 1 across creek on Avalanche Pass trail (fully functional but damaged)
Charlotte Creek (1)	below trail, east of crossing
Lower Junction Mdw (1)	next to trail, just below meadow
Junction Mdw (East Creek) (1)	west of East Creek Trail, south of Bubbs Creek log crossing
Vidette Meadow (2)	1 at Lower Vidette on south side of Bubbs Creek trail, west of JMT; 1 at east Vidette, on JMT above Bubbs Creek Junction, south side of trail
9,900' Elevation/JMT (1)	on south side of JMT, approximately 0.2 mile below "No Fires Above Here" sign; NOT FUNCTIONAL (DO NOT USE)
JMT/Center Basin Trail (1)	below trail approximately 150 yards south of JMT/Center Basin junction; NOT FUNCTIONAL (DO NOT USE)
East Lake (2)	1 at upper end of lake; 1 at lower end of lake
Charlotte Lake Area	
Charlotte lake (1)	at west end of lake
*Kearsarge Lakes (3)	1 at south end of upper small lake; 1 on north shore of largest upper lake; 1 on north shore of lowest small lake *DUE TO ILLEGAL FOOD CACHING, THESE WILL BE LOCKED IN 2013.
Copper Creek Trail	
Lower Tent Meadow (1)	below creek crossing, east side of creek
Lewis Creek Trail	
Frypan Meadow (1)	on upper side of meadow in campsite
Sugarloaf/Roaring River Area	
Ranger Lake (2)	1 on east side of lake NOT FUNCTIONAL (DO NOT USE) ; 1 on north end of lake
Seville Lake (2)	1 on north side of lake (not functional at time of printing); 1 on west side of lake
Lost Lake (1)	in main camp area on north side of lake
Sugarloaf Meadow (1)	at south end of meadow near hitch rail
Roaring River RS (3)	1 west of bridge; 1-100 yards north of Lackey cabin; 1-200 yards south of cabin, west side of river.
Comanche Meadow (1)	next to trail near lower east end.
Woods Creek/Rae Lakes Area	
Lower Paradise Valley (2)	1 above trail; 1 below trail
Middle Paradise Valley (1)	above the trail
Upper Paradise Valley (2)	both below the river crossing
Woods Creek/JMT (2)	both on south side of foot bridge
Arrowhead Lake (1)	on east shore, next to trail
Lower Rae Lake (1)	East shore, west of the trail; NOT FUNCTIONAL (DO NOT USE)
Middle Rae Lake (2)	both east shore west of sign

Food-storage Locker Locations: Sequoia National Park

Note: Food storage locker locations and conditions listed below are accurate as of 2012. Box conditions can deteriorate. Some boxes may not be functional.

Kern Canyon	
Lower Funston Meadow (2)	200 yards east of trail between northeast corner of meadow and river
Upper Funston Meadow (2)	1 at northeast corner of meadow near river; 1-60 yards further south
Kern Hot Springs (2)	1 between trail and river, 80 yards north of bulletin board; 1 in open pines 50 yards east of trail
Junction Meadow (1)	next to High Sierra Trail near southeast corner of meadow; NOT FUNCTIONAL (DO NOT USE)
Little Five Lakes Area	
Moraine Lake (1)	next to trail along east shore of lake
Cliff Ck/Timber Gap Jct. (1)	on east side of creek at trail junction
Pinto Lake (1)	on north side of trail
Little Five Lakes (1)	south of Blackrock Pass trail junction
Big Five lakes (1)	next to trail on northeast shore of lowest Big Five Lake
Big Arroyo Crossing (1)	on east side of Big Arroyo creek, southeast of trail junction
Lost Canyon/Big Five Jct. (1)	at Lost Canyon/Big Five trail junction
Lodgepole/Twin Lakes/Bearpaw/Lakes Areas	
Buck CK Crossing/HST (1)	on west side of creek
Bearpaw (4)	in main camp area
Mehrten CK Crossing/HST (1)	above trail on west side of creek
9 Mile Creek Crossing/HST (1)	by trail on west side of creek
Upper Hamilton Lake (3)	1 on west side of lake in open rocky area; 1-75 yards south of open rocky area; 1-200 yards west of lake NOT FUNCTIONAL (DO NOT USE) ; south of outlet stream
Emerald Lake (2)	between the trail and lake
Pear Lake (3)	on north side of lake (1); NORTH SIDE OF LAKE NEAR RESTROOM (2)
Clover Creek Crossing (Twin Lakes Trail (1)	on north side of first Clover Creek crossing; NOT FUNCTIONAL (DO NOT USE)
JO Pass Trail/Twin Lakes Jct. (1)	at trail junction
Twin Lakes (2)	1 at lower end of lake on trail; 1 at upper end of lake on trail
Mineral King Area	
Monarch lake (1)	100 yards northeast of lake outlet near some rock bluffs
Franklin Lake (2)	1 below dam, west of trail; 1 east of dam by 0.4 mile, 200 feet above lake
Hockett Meadow (3)	1 between ranger station and Whitman Creek bridge; 1 at the stock camp on the east edge of Hockett meadow; 1 in hidden camp/ stock camp.
South Fork of the Kaweah (3)	1 at stock camp on south shore of south fork of the Kaweah; 1 at main camp of the south fork pasture (upper camp) along north shore of the south fork of the Kaweah; 1 located 500 yards east of the upper camp also on the north shore of the south fork of the Kaweah.
Rock Creek Area	
Lower Rock Ck Crossing/PCT (1)	near trail on south side of crossing
Lower Rock Creek Lake (1)	north of trail on west end of lake
Lower Soldier Lake (1)	on rocky peninsula on south side of lake
Tyndall/Crabtree Areas	
Tyndall Ck Crossing/JMT (1)	west of trail, 350 feet north of creek
Wallace Creek/JMT (1)	west of trail, south of creek
PCT/Lower Crabtree Meadow (1)	south of Whitney Creek Crossing on west side of trail
Crabtree Ranger Station (1)	southeast of JMT, 100 yards south of ranger station

Fire in the Wilderness

Natural Fire

During your visit to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, you may see a wildfire or its smoke in the wilderness. Fire has been a natural part of the Sierra Nevada ecosystem for centuries and the parks' allow this natural wilderness event when it is safe to do so.

Natural fires occur at frequent intervals. Fire thins competing species, recycles nutrients into the soil, releases seeds for germination, and opens holes in the forest canopy for sunlight to enter. All of these are critical to the health of the Sierra Nevada forests. Yet another ecological benefit of regular lightning fires is that they limit the size and severity of subsequent fires.

Fires increase forage for deer and other grazers. Many animals hunt near the fire's edge. Fire also creates habitat for several animals including bird and rodents.

For more information about the parks' fire management program, please visit [Fire in the Parks](#).

Mountain Lions and Bighorn Sheep

Mountain Lions

Mountain lions (also known as cougars) are one of the wildest symbols of wilderness. As the largest carnivore in these parks, they range freely without human interference.

When visiting their habitat, you should understand their behavior and act accordingly to protect them and yourself. The likelihood of seeing a lion is small and the likelihood of encountering an aggressive lion is even smaller. However, you should still be prepared.

Use extra caution if you are hiking alone. Watch children closely, never let them run ahead on the trail. If you cross paths with a mountain lion, the key goal is to convince it that you are not prey and that you are fierce, yourself.

DO NOT RUN! Mountain lions often chase things that run because they associate running with prey. Do not crouch down. Try to appear as large as possible. Attempts to hide are unsuccessful - lions see most people long before people see lions. Hold your ground or back away slowly while facing the lion.

If little children are with you, pick them up. If the lion behaves aggressively, wave your hands, shout, and throw stones or sticks at it. If attacked, fight back!

Report any mountain lion sighting to a park ranger as soon as possible.

Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep

Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep are currently listed as endangered under both federal and state law. While this does not impose additional restrictions on wilderness travel in these national parks, the Inyo National Forest (immediately adjacent to our eastern border) may have additional restrictions to protect the bighorn sheep in specific areas. Please contact the Inyo National Forest for more information (see page 14).

Safety in the Wilderness

Are You Prepared For This Trip?

When venturing into wilderness you are responsible for your own well being. One of the special values of wilderness is that it is one of the few areas in our modern world where you may experience the full consequences of your decisions. It is a place of self-reliance. There are outstanding opportunities to recreate in a primitive setting. Preparation and planning before your trip increases the likelihood of your enjoyment and a successful adventure.

Search & Rescue

Leave detailed trip plans (including anticipated travels routes and campsites) with someone who can notify the parks' 24-hour dispatch center at (559) 565-3195 if you are more than 24 hours overdue. You should also leave a description of your equipment (tent color, clothing type/color, etc.) and provisions with your emergency contact. Each year, a number of park wilderness visitors become ill, injured, or incapacitated in some way. It is our policy to assist those in need when it is necessary, within the skill capabilities of available staff, and when it can be accomplished in a manner that provides reasonable safety for search and rescue personnel.

Search and rescue actions are conducted on a discretionary basis. The level and necessity of the response is determined through evaluation of the situation by field personnel. Rescuer safety is ALWAYS our first priority. As a wilderness traveler you are expected to exhibit a high degree of self-reliance and responsibility for safety commensurate with the difficulty of your chosen activities; more preparation is required to deal with emergencies as risk increases. If you find yourself in a true emergency, and have exhausted all means of self-rescue, contact a ranger in the field, or call park dispatch with a cell (signals are inconsistent), or satellite phone. There is little to no cell reception in most areas of these parks. When you make contact, provide clear, concise information regarding the nature & exact location of the problem or injury, as well as the number of people involved. Be aware that help may be several days out, and your best preparation is to be ready to help yourself.

If you get lost, stay put. Try to stay in a clearing or large rocky outcropping. Lay out a colorful tarp or build a small smoky fire in a safe area. Wait for searchers to find you.

High Water

Never underestimate the power of moving water—it can be deadly. Look for natural bridges such as logs or rocks. However, be careful, they can be extremely slippery. If none are available, wade across where the water is wide and shallow. Do not cross above rapids or gorges in case you fall. Unbuckle your pack's waist strap, face upstream, and use a long stick or hiking poles for stability. Wearing shoes is safer than crossing barefoot. If you are in a group, cross together holding on to one another. Do not tie yourself into ropes. Cross when the water level is lowest, usually in the morning, or choose another, safer, route.

Altitude Illness

Altitude illness can strike anyone. Typically it occurs at altitudes over 10,000 ft., but serious cases have occurred as low as 8,000 ft. Allow time for a slow ascent, adjusting gradually to altitude. Awakening with temporary shortness of breath is not uncommon. This alone is normally not a cause for alarm. Acute mountain sickness (AMS) usually starts as a mild illness with headache, nausea, difficulty sleeping, and fatigue. It is often treatable with rest, fluids, and mild analgesics, such as aspirin, acetaminophen, or ibuprofen. When AMS becomes severe, two life-threatening conditions may develop: High Altitude Pulmonary Edema (HAPE) or High Altitude Cerebral Edema (HACE). HAPE symptoms include extreme shortness of breath, the need to sit up to breathe, extreme fatigue, wheezing or coughing, and/or the inability to sleep. HACE symptoms include very severe headache, vomiting, confusion, loss of balance or coordination, and in later stages, loss of consciousness. Immediate descent to low altitude is the only cure. Get immediate help; the condition can progress rapidly and death is possible. The patient may walk slowly to low altitude if his/ her condition is not too severe. Extreme cases may require evacuation by helicopter with help from rangers. If a ranger cannot be found at a station, quickly proceed to the nearest trailhead to report the emergency.

Hypothermia

Hypothermia, which is a subnormal body temperature, can lead to mental and physical collapse and even death. Caused by combinations of cold, wetness, and wind, it is aggravated by exhaustion. Hypothermia can develop in any season. Stay dry. Wet clothes can lose up to 90% of their insulating value. Wool and synthetics provide better warmth when wet than down or cotton. Wet cotton will actually cause rapid cooling. Signs of hypothermia are uncontrollable shivering, slurred speech, memory lapses, incoherence, stumbling, drowsiness, and exhaustion. The victim may deny the problem. Believe the symptoms, not the victim. Even mild cases demand immediate attention. Shelter the victim from wind and rain. Strip off all wet clothes. Get them warm clothes and a sleeping bag. Provide external sources of warmth such as warm drinks, hot water bottles or your own body heat. Keep them awake.

Safety in the Wilderness (continued)

Lightning

Watch for approaching storms and go to a safe area before they arrive. Avoid mountain peaks, ridges, open areas, lone trees, shallow caves, and cliffs. Forested areas away from the tallest trees are safer. If you are in a treeless area and cannot get to a safer place, lay out insulating material (such as a foam pad) on the ground and sit on it. Only your buttocks and feet should touch the material. Use this method only if there are no alternatives. Do NOT seek shelter in the Mt. Whitney Hut or the Muir Hut – lightning can be conducted to individuals inside.

Natural Fire

In this fire-dependent ecosystem, fire helps create a healthy mosaic of plant communities. Lightning fires are permitted to do their ecological work in large portions of these parks. You may have an opportunity to see or travel through a burning or recently burned area. Trail closures may be necessary for public safety. In other cases, trails may remain open. Use extreme caution and remain alert for possible hazards such as active fire, dense smoke, rolling rocks and logs, falling trees or branches, and stump holes.

Water Quality

Drink smart. Lakes and streams can be contaminated even if they look and taste pure. Giardia has been found in some mountain streams. The incubation period for this intestinal parasite is 6 to 15 days after ingesting contaminated water. Symptoms include nausea, abdominal cramps, flatulence, lethargy, diarrhea, and weight loss. The disease may persist for weeks or months if untreated. The most certain treatment to make water safe to drink is to bring it to a boil. Many hikers prefer filtration for water treatment. Hand-pump filters with a pore size less than 0.5 micron should remove harmful bacteria and protozoa, including giardia. Chemical disinfectants, such as iodine or chlorine tablets, are not as reliable as heat in killing giardia. Use chemical disinfectants in conjunction with a filtration system. Recent technology has made ultra-violet sterilizers practical to carry for wilderness visitors.

Hand Washing

Most illnesses contracted while in the wilderness are attributable to poor hygiene. Washing hands after using the “toilet” and before eating or preparing food (to prevent fecal contamination) is just as important as treating water. Waterless hand sanitizer comes in small, light-weight containers, perfect for your backpack.

Human-Waste Disposal

The potential health hazard from human waste is ever present. To prevent the spread of disease, dispose of your body waste properly.

Bury feces at least 6 inches deep and at least 100 ft. from water, trails, and campsites. Carry out your used toilet paper and dispose of properly. Double Zip-lock plastic bags work well.

Ticks

Ticks are found most commonly in naturally vegetated areas like woods and forests at lower elevations. These small insects attach to humans and other animals. Ticks then feed on the blood of their host for several days. In the spring and early summer smaller immature ticks – roughly the size of a poppy seed—called “nymphs” are most active.

Ticks may carry the bacterium that causes Lyme disease and can transmit the bacterium to humans while they feed. Early symptoms of Lyme disease often include a spreading rash accompanied by flu-like symptoms such as fever and body aches. While Lyme disease is the most common tick-borne illness in California, ticks can transmit other human illnesses, such as Rocky Mountain spotted fever.

California Department of Public Health recommends the following to avoid ticks and tick-borne diseases:

- Wear light colored long pants and long-sleeved shirts when spending time outdoors. Tuck pant legs into boots or socks and tuck shirts into pants.
- Apply repellents registered for use against ticks and stay on trails when hiking.
- Conduct a tick-check over your entire body, including the hairline, armpits, back of knees and groin after outdoor activities, including picnicking.
- Continue to watch for ticks for up to three days after returning from tick habitat.
- Parents should check their children thoroughly for ticks.

Safety in the Wilderness (continued)

Mountain Lions

If you do see a mountain lion in the wilderness, consider yourself lucky. Sightings are extremely rare. For more information, see page 23.

Poison Oak

Poison oak is a shrub common in the foothills up to 6,000 ft. To avoid encountering poison oak, learn to identify it. Poison Oak is often red in the fall with whitish berries, bare in the winter, and shiny green leaves in groups of three in the spring. Remember: leaves of three, let it be!

Long sleeves and pants are your best protection. Contamination between clothing can occur if stored together.

Rattlesnakes

Look before you step when you are in rattlesnake country. Use hiking poles especially in vegetation to act as a buffer for your leg. Cover your legs with pants and gaiters and wear shoes that cover the ankle, even during short night excursions. If you are bitten, remain calm and seek help.

Tree Hazards

Numerous trees fall over in wilderness areas throughout the summer months. Areas of high concern are previously burned areas, edges of meadows, and areas of beetle kill. Avoid walking through areas of high concern when windy, particularly in the late afternoon. An assessment of trees surrounding your camping area is always a good idea.

Trips/Falls

Most injuries occur when we are in a hurry or tired. Stretching every day reduces risk of injury. However, injuries can happen to anyone, regardless of age, experience, or fitness level. If you twist an ankle or knee, try not to fight gravity if you can help it. Tensing up and trying to catch your fall can often make the injury worse. Rest, Ice, Compress, Elevate (RICE) is helpful post-injury. Hiking poles and braces for problem joints can help prevent such mishaps.

Wilderness - General Warning

Travel in wilderness, by its nature is an exercise in self-sufficiency. Use caution and be realistic about your level and type of experience, skill and comfort. If you choose to carry a hand-held electronic signaling device, be familiar with its operation and limitations. Do not base your safety or rely on it to summon rescue personnel as it may fail in the field due to battery power, breaking, connection failures, etc. (see page 27). These parks expect visitors to exhibit a high degree of self-reliance and responsibility for their own safety commensurate with the difficulty of their chosen activities; that is, the higher risk the activity, the more you need to be prepared for dealing with emergency situations.

Marmots in Mineral King

Like bears, jays and ground squirrels, marmots have not only become accustomed to visitors, they have learned that people are a source of food. Marmots are the largest members of the squirrel family and occasional chewers of boots, backpack straps, hiking pole grips, and radiator hoses.

Each spring and early summer, the marmots of Mineral King have been known to dine on rare delicacies. Their fare includes radiator hoses and car wiring. They can disable a vehicle. On several occasions, marmots have not escaped the engine compartment quickly enough and unsuspecting drivers have given them rides to other parts of the parks; several have ridden as far as southern California!

Various means, including wrapping a tarp around the entire vehicle, wrapping chicken wire around the vehicle-like a fence, and leaving vehicle hoods propped open, are used in an attempt to keep marmots from damaging vehicles.

If you visit Mineral King, especially during the spring, check under your hood before driving away. Let the rangers know whether or not your vehicle has been damaged.

Safety in the Wilderness (continued)

Advisory: Emergency Satellite Locator Devices

Using the SOS or 911 button on a satellite-locator device carries the same responsibility as dialing 911 from a telephone. Use these devices only to request help in a true emergency. Ask yourself: *are you willing to put other people at risk to solve your problem?*

Read this advisory before your trip in order to understand your responsibilities and the consequences of your actions. Know that rescues are risky to personnel and expensive to agencies. Rescuer safety is ALWAYS our first priority. Even if you activate the emergency beacon on a SPOT, PLB, or similar device, response may take longer than 24 hours depending on weather, time of day, your location, and other factors.

Responsibilities before leaving home:

- Know and consider your personal skills and limitations regarding your planned wilderness travel. Wilderness is a place for personal challenge, responsibility, and a high degree of self-reliance. Are you ready to deal with the dynamic hazards of wilderness?
- If you choose to carry a hand-held electronic signaling device, be familiar with its operation, limitations, and frequency of failure to transmit. **Do not rely on** it to summon rescue personnel or notify family you are “OK”. Read the instructions for your device; keep them with you. Understand how it works and what services provided by the manufacturer must be activated and purchased. If required, register your device and provide all the information requested.
- Some devices (e.g. SPOT) ask for a primary contact in the case of an emergency activation. *Do not start your trip* until that person has complete details, including :
 - Your intended route; alternate routes you might take; when and where you plan to start and end; knowledge about your experience level; and description of gear you are taking.
 - Full names of all members of your party and *their* emergency contacts.
 - **The difference between HELP, and SOS/911 on a SPOT-type device:**
 - SOS/911: - for a true emergency:** immediate response (through On-Star System)
 - HELP:** Not an emergency; signals your chosen contacts, and they already know what to do (e.g. hike or drive to your locations, etc.)
 - I'm OK:** Signals only your chosen contacts. One or two days of no signal is common and not necessarily an emergency. **Transmission in wilderness may be very inconsistent.**

The National Park Service (NPS) will not respond to a **HELP** as an emergency unless they have additional information. If you have a true emergency, activate **SOS/911**. *Share this information with all chosen contacts.*

- How to access your tracking webpage, including login and password. Knowing your prior waypoints or tracking information may help the NPS to respond.

Responsibilities during your trip:

- Your knowledge, experience, and equipment will contribute most to your survival. Can you self-rescue *or* get help from other hikers? *Do not* signal **SOS/911** unless it is a true emergency, but do not be afraid to signal if you know it is justified.
- If you activate **SOS/911** and it is safe to stay where you are, *don't leave*. It may be harder for rescuers to find you if you move. Stopping the **SOS/911** signal or activating the **OK** signal may not cancel a response, so stay in the area where you activated the **SOS/911** even if the emergency has passed.

Responsibilities after your trip or emergency:

- If you activated the **SOS/911** but have not been contacted by the NPS or other agency personnel, *call us immediately* once you are out of the wilderness; we may be looking for you. Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks' 24-hour dispatch phone number is **559-565-3195**.
- Let your contact(s) know as soon as you are out of the wilderness and not in need of help.

Your locator device is only a tool. Activate SOS/911 only in a true emergency, and the NPS will do everything possible to help you.

Wilderness Etiquette

- Hikers should always yield to pack animals. Stand **downhill** from passing pack animals and other stock so as to not appear predatory.

- In general, allow uphill travelers the right of way. Unless the uphill party is looking for a reason to have a break, allow them to continue with the momentum they have to get up the hill.

When planning for and spending time in wilderness, think about the experience of others around you and try to be considerate. For example,

- Try to get to your camping area well before dark so a proper site can be found and the noises of settling in for the night are not disturbing the sleep of others.
- While walking or riding, normal human noises of conversation are a good warning for Sierra Black Bears to vacate the area, but yelling in a disruptive manner can be an unwanted disturbance to the solitude of others.
- Do not create or construct displays that disturb the natural state of the area.
- When walking or riding on-trail, walk single file in the middle of the trail even when it's wet or muddy so trails are not widened or re-routed.
- When walking or riding off-trail in a group, spread out so you do not create a new trail.
- Leave flowers and foliage undisturbed so that they can be enjoyed by other hikers and contribute to their native ecosystem.
- If you will be using a WAG BAG, do not leave it anywhere in the wilderness. It should be disposed of properly in a front-country trash receptacle.
- If you find an artifact, do not disturb or collect it. Leave the artifact where you found it so that it can be understood in context. If possible, note the GPS coordinates or specific directions to the location where you found the artifact and relay this information to a park ranger.
- If you have concerns about the actions of another wilderness traveler, tell a Park Service employee.

Remember, we are all stewards of our national parks. The positive actions you take today can leave a wonderful experience for tomorrow.

Fishing and Pets

Fishing

Fishing requires a California state fishing license for everyone aged 16 or older. Licenses are not available for sale in either Sequoia or Kings Canyon National Parks. It would be wise to obtain a license and a copy of state fishing regulations before your trip. State fishing regulations and license information is also available online at www.dfg.ca.gov.

- A. State fishing regulations apply to all areas in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park except for those areas listed in section B below.
- B. Exceptions to state fishing regulations for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park:
 - a. In areas below 9,000 ft. in elevation and more than one-quarter (.25) of a mile from developed areas. "Developed areas," for the purposes of this regulation, are defined as areas within one-quarter (1/4) of a mile of buildings, campgrounds, picnic areas or parking lots that accommodate more than five (5) vehicles.
 - i. Rainbow Trout, Sacramento Sucker, Kern Rainbow, Sculpin, and Roach fish (i.e. native species of the park) must be released.
 - ii. Artificial flies or lures with barb-less hooks are required.
 - b. Soda Springs Creek (Sequoia NP) is closed to fishing.

Pets

For you and your neighbors to see and appreciate wildlife, please note that pets are not permitted on any of the trails in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. This includes both front-country and wilderness trails.

Pets are NOT allowed in the wilderness of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks because they disturb wildlife and other visitors, even unintentionally with their simple presence. The national forests that surround these parks generally allow pets (subject to restrictions in bighorn sheep habitat).

A general rule of thumb is that pets are allowed in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks anywhere that a car can go, provided the pet is leashed. This means that front-country campgrounds, picnic areas, roads, and other developed areas are the only places where pets are allowed.

In developed areas, pets must be kept on a leash at all times. The leash must be less than 6 ft. (1.8 meters) long. For your pet's safety, please don't leave pets in hot cars. Pets cannot be left tied and unattended at any time.

In the National Forest lands that surround Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, pets are allowed on trails, provided they are leashed. The leash must be less than 6 ft. (1.8 meters) long.

Stock Use

Recreational stock use in these parks is subject to a series of controls to ensure minimal impacts. Stock users need to be familiar with all information contained in: Stock Use & Grazing Regulations (issued annually for Kings Canyon, and Sequoia NPs), Stock User Guide (issued annually), and additional information, all of which can be obtained from the Wilderness Office (559-565-3766), or found on our website at : <http://www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/stockuse.htm>.

Commercial users must obtain a Commercial Use Authorization (CUA) from Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, as well as any other public land areas through which a trip will be passing. For information regarding CUAs, please contact the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Concessions Office at (559) 565-3103 or e-mail SEKI_Concessions@nps.gov.

Military Over-Flights

Much of the wilderness in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks underlies a special military training airspace - the R-2508 Complex. Military pilots train for combat missions in the complex, often by flying low and fast. Such flights can be very startling to people and animals. In the portion of the R-2508 Complex that is over these parks, pilots are required to fly no lower than 3,000 ft. above ground level. Occasionally pilots do fly lower than allowed. If you witness an incident you feel is questionable, please report it to:

R-2508 Central Control Facility
100 Sparks Road Building
2580 Edwards Air Force Base
CA 93524

Note the date, time, location, direction of flight, and describe the aircraft in as much detail as possible. Please send a copy of your letter to the Sequoia National Park. If the military's radar tapes confirm a pilot flew lower than allowed, disciplinary action is possible.

Archaeology: Voices from the Past

Many physical clues remain in the wilderness of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks of those who ventured before us: obsidian arrowheads, prehistoric pottery, pictographs, mines, graves, and cabins. If you encounter such sites or artifacts, do not disturb them. Human history is still being recorded and deciphered in the wilderness. Preserving these traces of the past allows others to view and enjoy them.

Archaeological remains are nonrenewable resources that may have been in place for thousands of years. Disturbing them removes, and in some cases, destroys the context from which to study and enjoy them. Disturbing sites and artifacts is a crime punishable by law. Do not excavate, remove, damage, alter, or deface items of archeological interest. If you find evidence of an archeological site, report it to a ranger. With your help and respect, these stories will not be lost.

You may also encounter historic structures such as the Mount Whitney Summit Hut built in 1909 for meteorological observations or the beehive-shaped Muir Hut on Muir Pass built in the 1930s. Unfortunately, vandalism, trash, and human waste have compromised their integrity. Please respect their historic value and use them only if an emergency arises.

Working in the Wilderness

Wilderness & Trailhead Rangers

As snow melts from the high country in early summer, wilderness rangers are preparing to return to their remote ranger stations. They will spend three to four months patrolling hundreds of miles of trails and thousands of acres of wilderness. Their typical duties include reporting on trail conditions, enforcing regulations and restrictions, picking up trash left by careless visitors, rehabilitating damaged campsites, performing minor trail maintenance, checking meadow conditions, monitoring bear activity, administering first aid, dispensing information, searching for lost hikers, and coordinating rescues. Their primary role is to ensure that your wilderness is protected and you have an enjoyable, safe experience. If you encounter one of the wilderness rangers, please share your observations.

The less-romanticized "trailhead rangers" perform just as important work as the wilderness rangers. Based in the front-country, these rangers issue wilderness permits, educate visitors on wilderness ethics, and perform much of the same work as wilderness rangers within a day or so walk from the trailheads.

Books

Trail Guides

The High Sierra: Peaks, Passes, and Trails by R.J. Secor. Comprehensive resource covers most known routes throughout the High Sierra.

Hiking Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks by Laurel Scheidt. Covers eighty-six trails that vary in difficulty from easy strolls to challenging treks.

Sequoia National Park: A Complete Hiker's Guide and **Kings Canyon National Park: A Complete Hiker's Guide** by Mike White. These two books detail trips for all levels, covering both the west and the east sides of the park.

Joy of Backpacking by Brian Beffort. A comprehensive guide covering every aspect of how to backpack - from planning a first trip to advanced wilderness travel.

Staying Found by June Fleming. This book's system for learning map and compass makes it easy to understand what you're doing and why.

Maps

Support the Parks:

Buy from the Sequoia Natural History Association

The Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA) is a non-profit organization that works to support Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks. SNHA sells maps and books online, in visitor centers and at permit stations throughout the parks. Common trip planning guides are listed below, but be sure to visit their online bookstore for a complete selection at www.sequoiahistory.org. Orders may be placed on their website and by phone at (559) 565-3759.

Maps

National Geographic Trails Illustrated Map: Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

Tom Harrison Maps:

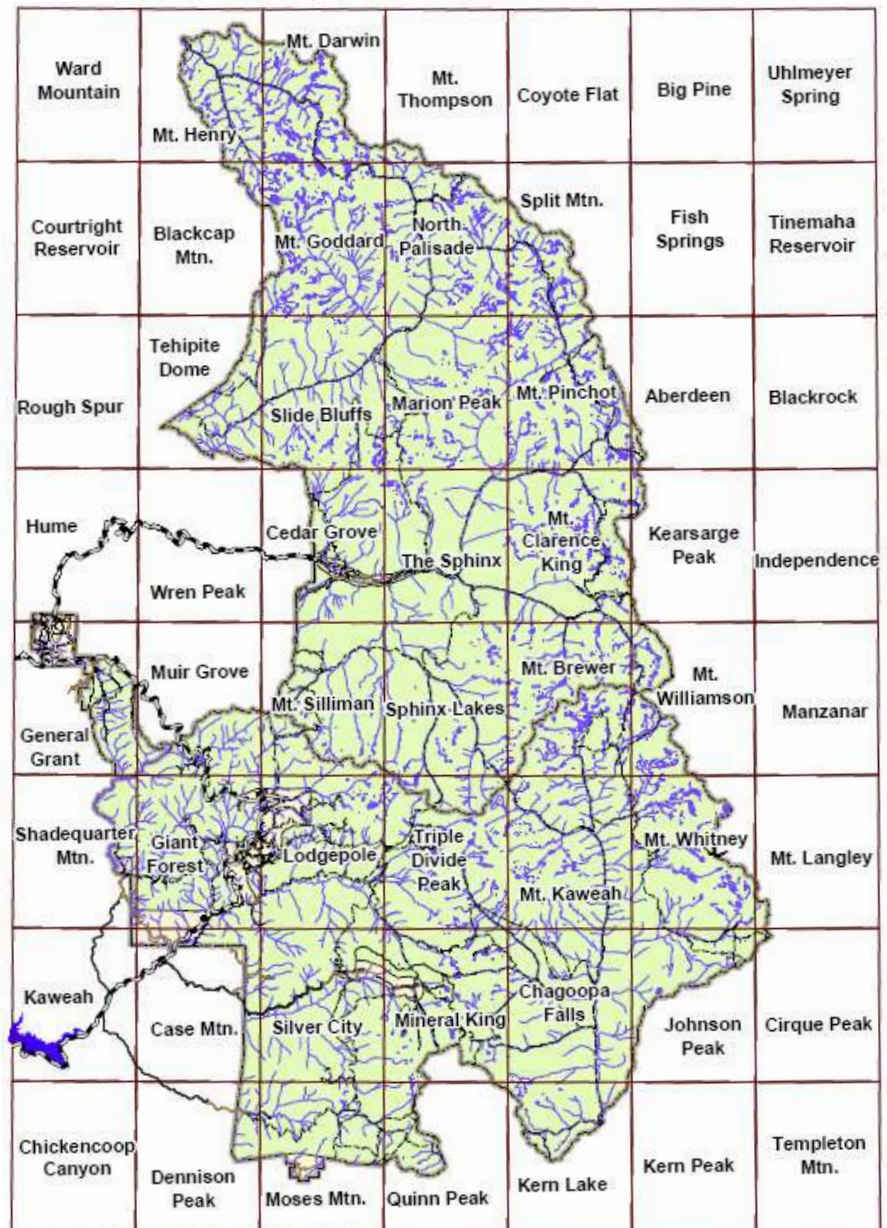
Sequoia & Kings Canyon Recreation Map; Mount Whitney High Country Trail Map; Kings Canyon High Country Trail Map; Mammoth High Country Trail Map; Mineral King High Country Trail Map; Mono Divide High Country Trail Map; Golden Trout Wilderness Trail Map...

SNHA Maps:

Trail Maps of Sequoia and Kings Canyon
Cross Country Ski Trails

7.5 Minute USGS Topographic Quadrangle Maps

The diagram to the right lists the names of the quadrangle maps. The grey line is the boundary of Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks. Major roads inside the parks are black lines on the left side of the diagram.



Web Links

Suggested Links

As you plan your trip into the wilderness of the Sierra Nevada, the website links listed below may prove useful. Besides the first three websites, the National Park Service assumes no responsibility for the content of these websites.

Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks

www.nps.gov/seki (general home page) www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness.htm (wilderness home page)

Sequoia Natural History Association (non-profit educational partner & bookstore sales) www.sequoiahistory.org

Sierra Nevada Wild (centralized wilderness information and links for the 28 Sierra Nevada public land agencies)

www.sierranewadawild.gov

Inyo National Forest

www.fs.fed.us/r5/inyo (general home page) www.fs.fed.us/r5/inyo/recreation/wild/index.htm (wilderness home page)

Sequoia National Forest

www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia (general home page) www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia/passespermits/wilderness_permit/wilderness_index.html (wilderness home page)

Sierra National Forest

www.fs.fed.us/r5/sierra (general home page) www.fs.fed.us/r5/sierra/recreation/wilderness/index.shtml (wilderness home page)

Yosemite National Park

www.nps.gov/yose (general home page) www.nps.gov/archive/yose/wilderness/ (wilderness home page)

BLM Bakersfield Field Office

www.blm.gov/ca/bakersfield

National Weather Service (forecasts) <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/hnx/>

Pacific Crest Trail Association (trip planning and online community for PCT & JMT through-hikers) www.pcta.org

Leave No Trace (outdoor ethics for hikers and riders) www.lnt.org

Wilderness.Net (compilation of wilderness information, research, issues, quotes, and more) www.wilderness.net

Delaware North Companies (concessionaire inside Sequoia National Park, manages Wuksachi Lodge & Bearpaw High Sierra Camp) www.visitsequoia.com

Sequoia-Kings Canyon Park Services Company

(concessionaire inside Kings Canyon National Park, manages John Muir Lodge & Cedar Grove Lodge) www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com

Sequoia Shuttle (fee-based shuttle from Visalia & free shuttle within the Giant Forest/Lodgepole area) www.sequoiashuttle.com

High Sierra Packers Association (members are pack stations operating from the west side) www.highsierrapackers.org/

Eastern Sierra Packers Association (members are pack stations operating from the east side) www.easternsierrapackers.org

High Sierra Topics (online community of hikers who give advice and help plan trips) www.highsierratopix.com/community

Parting Words

“The love of wilderness is more than a hunger for what is always beyond reach; it is also an expression of loyalty to the earth ... the only home we shall ever know, the only paradise we ever need - if only we had the eyes to see.”

-Edward Abbey